

Local Exchange Carriers operate an "essential facility." For this reason, they should be required to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. Under this "wholesale provisioning" approach, each market can be served by more than one organization. This stimulates competition, and this competition benefits both consumers and the industry by driving greater operating efficiencies. Chairman Powell, I request that you and your fellow Commissioners not allow large corporate interests to dominate markets at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country. The economy will suffer, the telecommunications industry will suffer, and individual consumers will suffer.